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# MEMO

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To: Superintendents, Charter School Administrators and School Board Trustees

From: Matt McCarter, Students Come First Director

Date: March 23, 2012

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Re: One-to-One Mobile Computing Device Memo

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Under Section 33-1627(4), Idaho Code, the State Department of Education (SDE) will contract for the provision of mobile computing devices for students in grades 9-12 and the teachers who serve them. Beginning in 2012, the state will invest in a mobile computing device for every teacher and principal serving grades 9-12. Beginning in 2013, the state will begin to invest in mobile computing devices for students in grades 9-12. The devices will be phased in for students over a three-year period. The State of Idaho will negotiate a contract at the state level for one device to achieve maximum cost savings and efficiency. The contract will be for a managed service, which will include the device as well as the necessary software, technical support, wireless network, maintenance and security.

Under Students Come First, a Technology Task Force was formed and charged, in part, with developing a plan for the provision and support of the one-to-one mobile computing devices in high schools. After seven months of studying other states and school districts that have implemented a one-to-one initiative, the Task Force recommended deploying the devices to a third of students each year by school or district, rather than by grade level, to ensure successful implementation statewide. The Task Force recommended the SDE make the final determination on whether the devices should be deployed by school or by district.

After further deliberation, the SDE has chosen to deploy the mobile computing devices to one-third of schools for three consecutive years until a one-to-one ratio among students in grades 9-12 is reached, while still giving districts the option to implement in all their high schools. In this way, the state is able to give local school districts more flexibility and control over how they deploy devices in their district.

On January 5, 2012, the SDE issued a request for local districts and public charter schools interested in being among the first one-third of schools to receive student devices in the 2013-2014 school year to submit letters of interest by February 17, 2012. The SDE received 100 letters representing more than 170 schools and approximately 84 percent of students in grades 9-12. To see the full list of schools and districts that signed up to participate, visit <http://www.studentscomefirst.org/mobiledevices.htm> and click on the "Letters of Interest" list.

Since the demand far exceeded the one-third of students the state will be able to deploy to beginning in 2013, the SDE has developed a brief application to determine which schools are most ready to benefit and should participate in the first deployment of one-to-one devices for students in 2013. The application is comprised of two parts:

1. A brief narrative, the focus of which is described in the attached application.
2. Data currently collected by the SDE and partnering organizations, including:
  - Per-capita student usage of Idaho Digital Learning Academy (IDLA) courses collected by IDLA, and
  - Accuracy of key Idaho System of Educational Excellence (ISEE) data uploads.

Points will be awarded for each section of the narrative and for the data portion as outlined in the attached rubric. Award determination will be decided by point total rankings in each of the six regions of the state. The device allocation in each region will be awarded proportional to the number of schools that submitted letters of interest.



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
PO BOX 83720  
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

**The five-page, double-spaced essay must be completed and submitted via e-mail to the State Department of Education with the signed assurance page by close of business on April 27, 2012.** To submit your application, please e-mail it to [cwells@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:cwells@sde.idaho.gov). If you have questions, please contact Matt McCarter, Students Come First Director, at [mamccarter@sde.idaho.gov](mailto:mamccarter@sde.idaho.gov) or (208) 332-6961.

An application writing webinar will be conducted on Wednesday, April 4, 2012 from 3:00-4:00 pm/MT. Register at <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/299660334>. The webinar will be archived and posted online at <http://studentscomefirst.org/mobiledevices.htm>.